

And they continued steadfastly...

Acts 2:42

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**Principles Governing the New testament Church as revealed to
Br. Bakht Singh.**

Introduction

The Lord Jesus Christ said "I will build my Church, and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it." Matt.16: 18.

This work started in Acts Chapter 2:41-42 (Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls. And they continued steadfastly in the apostle's doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers. When the Holy Ghost came upon the disciples they started preaching the Gospel). Acts 2:36-40 (therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus whom you have crucified, both Lord and Christ. Now when they heard this, they were pricked in their heart, and said unto Peter and to the rest of the apostles, Men and brethren, what shall we do? Then Peter said unto them, Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the remission of sins, and ye shall receive the gift of the Holy Ghost. For the promise is unto you and to your children, and all that are afar off, even as many as the Lord our God shall call. And with many other words did he testify and exhort, saying, save yourselves from this untoward generation).

Then they that gladly received his word, were baptized and the same day there were added unto them about three thousand souls". Acts 2: 41.

This was the first church started by the Lord Jesus Christ, whatsoever they practiced in their lives as a church was an example set forth for the coming generations.

"They continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine, and fellowship, and in the breaking of bread, and in prayers". Acts 2: 42.

These four words" Apostle's doctrine, fellowship, breaking of bread and prayers have deep Principles behind them. The first century church continued steadfastly in these principles. They continued daily with one accord in the temple and breaking bread from house to house and did eat their meat with gladness and "singleness of heart, Praising God and having favor with all people. And the Lord added to the church daily, such as should be saved. Acts 2:46-47.

Then early church continued in this pattern for some time and the work increased day by day. Subsequently many churches were established in many parts of Europe, and Rome became the head quarters of the church. Few years later a man named Constantine became the Emperor of Rome. He was warring against other nations. During these days, in a dream, he saw the vision of the cross. They he said to himself," if I win, I will become a Christian". Likewise, he won the battle and converted himself. He was not born again. He was a Heathen. He only changed the religion and left idol worship. To please the Emperor many of his subordinates and subjects who were heathen (idol worshippers) became Christians. These people were not satisfied with the worship without idols and hence they requested the Emperor to do something. The Emperor, in turn, requested the Bishop of the Church at Rome to keep some idols in the name of Christ in the Church to satisfy the congregation. This is how the so called "Statues" were brought in the church. (Crucifixion of Jesus Christ, Sacred heart of Jesus Christ etc... ;) and also all the heathen traditions and

practices were brought into the church. The Bishop became the sole authority and this is how the Roman Catholicism came into existence and the real church disappeared. But they continued in the principles against the principles of Roman Catholicism. Many followed him and separated from Roman Catholicism. Many others came out like John Wesley etc.; and started different denominational churches. But they all followed the same pattern of worship, catechism etc.; of Roman Catholicism, and not according to the Word of God. But God's Eternal purpose for His Church has to be fulfilled. Hence God chose His Servant Brother Bakht Singh, trained him for His ministry and showed him the real pattern of the Church by revelation (The pattern of the first century church).

I was born again in the year 1954 and joined the fellowship of Brother Bakht Singh in 1955. I come from C.S.I background and I had a desire to know as to why we are having a different kind of Church service in this fellowship compared to the other church services. One day I asked Brother Bakht Singh about this. He replied "you read Exodus 25:40. God showed Moses the pattern of the Tabernacle and told Moses to do accordingly. Moses did as God commanded him. God showed me the pattern. I am following the same". I was not satisfied with this answer. Hence when I went to Madras the next time, I met Bro. R.P. Dorai Raj. One of the elders of Jehovah Shammah, Madras, who was also with Brother. Bakht Singh from the very beginning, I requested him to tell me about this vision. He explained to me fully and said 'whatever we do, we do according to the word of God". I had been following these truths and this is my experience for the past 45 years.

Whatsoever was told to me by (Late) Bro. R.P. Dorai Raj, about how the revival was brought in the church through the obedience to the Word of God, is described in the following pages.

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Calling

God chose Brother Bakht Singh, gave him salvation and called him for His serves. He trained him to live by faith. At the appointed time God took him to Madras. Most of the protestant Christian churches opened their doors for him to preach the Glorious Gospel of Christ. God in His mercy opened many hearts and many men and women were "Born Again" receiving the Lord in their hearts and receiving forgiveness of sins. Brother Bakht Singh was insisting everyone who came for the meeting to own a complete Bible for themselves, and also to bring their Bibles with them for every meeting without fail. He insisted that even the children who come for the meeting should have a Bible. It seems that God told him "you give a Bible to everyone and I will speak to them" All who had not Bibles with them, went to Bible Society and purchased bibles.

Many men and women have received salvation and they had thirst for the word of God. Daily they used to gather in different churches wherever the meetings were held and received God's word through his servants.

One day God spoke to Brother Bakht Singh to preach about Baptism. The next day he preached about Baptism and explained how good it is to obey the Lord by witnessing in the waters of Baptism. Many who were Born again came forward to be baptized. Accordingly he baptized all those who were willing to be baptized. The pastors and elders of the denominational churches did not accept this Doctrine. Hence they ex-communicated all those who took Baptisms and also closed the doors for Brother Bakht Singh. Now 'they had to find a place of meeting. Brother Bakht Singh took a house for rent at Purasawakam to conduct meetings. All those who were Born again and baptized came there for meeting and heard God's word. Brother Bakht Singh was taking Bible Study for these saints. They were all very happy.

"Vision "of Breaking of Bread.

One day, during his morning quiet time Brother Bakht Singh was reading Ephesians chapter 4. He studied Verses 11-13 (11. and he gave some apostles and some prophets; and some, evangelists; and some pastors and teachers 12. For the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry, for the edifying of the body of Christ. 13. till we all come in the unity of the faith, and of the knowledge of the Son of God, unto a perfect man, unto the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ). Here he could understand God's desire for a man who is Born again to become perfect. God is not just satisfied if a man is saved. He wants him to become perfect. Eph 4:13. Verses 11 & 12 tell about the provision He made in the church. "And He gave some apostles and some Prophets and some Evangelists and some Pastors and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints, for the work of the ministry for the edification of the body of Christ."

These verses he read again and again. Then he asked the Lord "Lord, I am an evangelist. Your word says that you have called me for the perfection of saints. How can I do it. By your Grace I can preach the Gospel. I can take Bible study. But how can I bring perfection in saint's lives. Please explain". He was praying with tears. After few days he shared this problem with the brothers who were with him from the

beginning. Brother R.P.Dorai Raj, R.Rajamani, Moses Dawn, Rajarathnam and Neol Barrow. They all decided to spend one full night in prayer. Therefore they went to a place called Pallavaram in Madras. Near Pallavaram railway station, there was a small hill. On the top of the hill there was an old Mosque. No body was using that place. So they all went to the top of the hill and spent the whole night in prayer. When the day dawned they all came down and sat at the foot of the hill. God told Brother Bakht Singh to read 1 Corinthians 11th chapter. They all read together. Brother Bakht Singh said "we are not observing this. God wants us to observe this. Then the other brothers said "If God wants us to observe this we will do it now". Immediately one brother rolled a stone which was there nearby. Another brother covered the stone with his big towel. Another brother went to the shop nearby and brought one bun and two glasses of lime juice. They kept these things on the stone. Again they read 1st Corinthians 11. The words "Do this in remembrance of me" attracted them very much. They started remembering all that the Lord has done for them. Their hearts were filled with thanksgiving and worship. Without their knowledge they started worshipping the Lord one after another. As they were worshipping, they realized that a thick cloud covered them and they could feel God's presence in a real way. That is true. Psalms 22:3. "But thou art Holy, O thou that inhabitest the praises of Israel". When God's people worship, God comes and dwells among them. This was their experience after worship; again they read 1st Corinthians 11. God spoke to them through verse 28. "But let a man examine himself and so let him eat of that bread and drink of that cup". They were thinking that they were all right (self righteous) in their lives. They were saying to themselves "we are very Godly people. We left the denomination for God's work. What have we to examine?" Brother Bakht Singh was asking the Lord to explain him the meaning of this verse. Then the Lord told him to read Psalms 139 verse 23-24. "Search me O God and know my heart, try me and know my thoughts. And see if there is any wicked way in me, and lead me in the way everlasting". As all these brethren read these verses they could understand that this was the prayer of King David. Now they made it as their own prayer in sincerity. God answered them and showed them individually the secret of sin of malice, pride, jealousy etc. they all wept and asked the Lord forgiveness and also asked forgiveness from one another. Now they felt that they were perfect before God and man. Then Brother Bakht Singh gave thanks for the Bread and the Cup and shared with them. Then he finished with prayer. After prayer all these brethren felt a new thirst for the Word. They requested Brother Bakht Singh to share the Word of God. He gave a short word and with great happiness they returned to their homes.

That night the Lord spoke to Brother Bakht Singh and said "you asked me a question as to how to bring perfection in the saints. What happened to all of you at the foot of the hill at Pallavaram, is the answer. When you examine, confess your failures and set right things with one another and take part in the table with a good conscience, you become perfect. Could you understand now? Brother Bakht Singh said "Yes Lord. Now I understand". Then God told to bring His pattern among God's people so that he may bring perfection in the Church. Brother Bakht Singh again requested the Lord to show him clearly as to how he should start the pattern in the church.

Then the Lord showed him very clearly and instructed him as to how he should prepare God's people to become perfect. As god showed Moses, on the mount about the tabernacle, (Exodus 25:40), God showed Brother Bakht Singh in a vision about the church. The Lord told Brother Bakht Singh "in the Old testament whenever God's people gathered in the temple, they sand songs and praised God. Psalms

33:1-3 (1. Rejoice in the Lord. O Ye righteous: for praise is comely for the upright. 2. Praise the Lord with harp: sing unto him with the psaltery and, an instrument of ten strings. 3. Sing unto Him a new Song: play skillfully with a loud noise.) Psalms 47:6-7. (6. Sing praises to God, sing praises: sing praises unto our king, sing praises, 7. For God is the King of all the earth sing ye praises with understanding), Psalms 66:1-2 (1. Make a joyful noise unto God, all ye lands: 2. Sing forth the honor of his name: make his praise glorious.) etc., so you start the service with Songs of Praise. Gather Gods people on Lord's day, allow all of them to sing together few songs. Afterwards teach them to worship the Lord individually. Allow them to worship one by one for sometime. Afterwards explain them about the tables as to how they should take part in it.

When they worship I will come and dwell among them. They will feel my presence. I will put fear in their hearts. And when you exhort them, they will repent and Set right their lives before God and with the one another. When they confess I will forgive them. They will become perfect. Then you break bread and allow God's people to take part worthily. This is how you can bring perfection in the church. Then they will be ready for the rapture. When God's people take part in the table worthily their conscience becomes clean and will receive the word with readiness of heart. Then you can give a message. I will speak to them and they will fear and obey. The church will be prepared for my coming. This is how I will build my church and you will be a laborer together with me. 1st Corinthians 3:9 (for we are laborers together with God: ye are God's husbandry, ye are God's building). Brother Bakht Singh did according to all the instructions given to him by the Lord and the church started with these principles in Jehovah-Shammah in July 1941. This is the true history of our fellowship.

First worship, second Breaking of bread, third Message. Then other activities like offering etc., and at the end Benediction. We are not following any cunningly devised fables. We are following the heavenly vision shown to his Servant Brother Bakht Singh at the foot of the hill at Pallavaram. He has to pay a great price to obey the Vision and out in into practice. God honored him. The work spread not only in India but also in other countries. Nobody has any right to change the pattern. If any of you (God Servants, Elders, Sheperds) is not following this pattern, you are disobeying the Vision, and are accountable to the Lord. God's desire is that a man should be born again. He must become perfect. He must be ready to be raptured at any time. God made all the provision. It is we who should fit in the provision, become perfect, thus getting ready for His coming. God wants individual perfection and the church perfection so that He might sanctify and cleanse it with the washing of water by the Word that he might present it to himself a glorious church not having spot or wrinkle or any such thing. Let us co-operate with him. "And they continued steadfastly. Acts 2:42.

The principles of the Living church.

Acts 2:42 (And they continued steadfastly in the apostles' doctrine and fellowship, and in breaking of bread, and in prayers.)

I said previously, that these four words have deep meaning behind them.

1. The Apostles Doctrine:

They continued in the apostles Doctrine. What is the Apostles Doctrine? Who are the apostles. Who gave the doctrine? It is called the Apostles Doctrine. So Lord Jesus Christ is the Apostle. Heb 3:1 "Wherefore brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling consider the Apostles and High priest of our profession, Christ Jesus."

Here the Apostle means a person sent by God with full authority. Lord Jesus Christ was sent by God. 1st John 4:9-10. "God sent his only begotten Son into the world that we might live through him". V.9.

"Herein is love not that we loved God, but he loved us and sent His Son to be the propitiation for our sins. He came with all authority. John 5:26-27. "For as the Father hath life in himself: so hath he given to the Son to have life in himself."

"And hath given him authority to execute judgment also because he is the Son of man". What is his reality? Heb 1:3". "He being the brightness of His glory and express image of his person" "He is the image of the invisible God the first born of every creature". Colossians 1:15 But when he came into the world, John the Baptist addresses him as "Behold the Lamb of God, which taketh away the sin of the world" John 1:29. God sent his Son to be a Lamb to be sacrificed for the sins of the human race.

What is the purpose? To give eternal life. John 17:2-3 (2. as thou has given him power over all flesh, that he should give eternal life to as many as thou has to given them 3. And this is life eternal, that they might know thee the only God, and Jesus Christ. Whom thou has sent). John 3:36 (He that believeth not the son shall not see life; but the wrath of God abideth in him).

His Life in this world

He spoke the words of God. John 3:34 (For he whom God hath sent speaketh the words of God; for God giveth not the spirit by measure unto him). God wanted to speak to man. But man never wanted to hear the voice of God. Exodus 20:18-19 "And all the people saw the thundering, and the lightening and the noise of the trumpet, and the mountain smoking: and when the people saw it, they removed and stood afar off. And they said unto Moses Speak thou with us and we will hear; but let not God speak with us, lest we die. "But God gave a promise in Deuteronomy 18:18 "I will raise them up a Prophet..... And he shall speak unto them all that I shall command him". This person is Lord Jesus Christ. Jews could not understand. In John

4:25-26 (25. The woman saith unto him, I know that Messiah cometh, which is called Christ: when he is come, he will tell us all things. 26. Jesus saith unto her, I that speak unto thee am he.) She believed and received life and became a witness.

He became a Lamb of God. "He was wounded for our transgression; he was bruised for our iniquities. The chastisement of our peace was upon him and with his stripes we are healed. Isaiah 53:5. He died for our sins. But on the third day he rose again "Now he is alive. He said "I am he that liveth, and was dead, and behold I am alive for evermore Amen". Revelation 1:18. He is living and He is the living Apostle. He is always with us Matt 28:20 (Teaching them to observe all things whatsoever I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the World Amen.) He gave the Doctrine. He said "My Doctrine is not mine but his that sent me. If any man will do his will, he shall know of the Doctrine" John 7:16-17. What is the will of God? Father spoke from heaven and said "This is my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased: hear ye him" Matt.17:5. This is the will of God for all the human race. All should hear the words of Lord Jesus Christ and obey him.

The disciples obeyed the words of Lord Jesus Christ. Acts 1:8 (But ye shall receive power, after that the Holy Ghost is come upon you: and ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, in all Judea and in Samaria and unto the uttermost part of the earth.) 2:23,24 (23.Him, being delivered by the determinate counsel and foreknowledge of God, ye have take, and by wicked hands have crucified and slain: 24. whom God hath raised up, having loosed the pains of death: because it was not possible that he should be Holden of it.) Acts 3:14 (But ye denied the Holy one and the Just, and desired a Murderer to be granted unto you;) etc. Apostles Paul obeyed Acts 9:20 (And straightway he preached Christ in the Synagogues, that he is the Son of God). These disciples had not bibles. But whatever he said they obeyed. Now the Lord Jesus Christ is not living in flesh and blood. So how to hear him and obey him.

One of the many names of Lord Jesus Christ is 'The Word of God". Rev. 19:13. When we obey the Word of God we obey the Lord Jesus Christ. God has provided us full Bibles (The word of God) in our own languages. We must read and obey it. This is "the Apostles Doctrine. "That is why Bro Bakht Singh was very particular that everybody should have their own Bible and they should carry it whenever they go. When we carry the Bibles we carry the Lord Jesus Christ. By reading and obeying the word of God a man becomes perfect. "All scripture is given by the inspiration of God... that the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works." 2 Timothy 3:15-16 (15. And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. All scriptures are given by inspiration of God. And is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness. (Ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.) John 8:31 (Then said Jesus to the Jews which believed on him, if ye continue in my word, then are ye my disciples indeed;)., Matt 10:32 (Whosoever therefore shall confess me before men, him will I confess also before my father which is in heaven). They obeyed. This is the Apostle's Doctrine. They continued steadfastly in the Apostles Doctrine. We must also continue steadfastly in this principle.

2. Fellowship:

Unity "One person singly cannot have fellowship. Two or three gather together then they can have fellowship. Fellowship means church. What is church? 1 Corinthians 1:2 Apostle Paul writes this way. Unto the church of God which is at Corinth, to them that are sanctified in Christ Jesus, called to be saints. "Those who are born again, when they gather together that congregation is called church.

Apostle Paul gives many names to the Church:

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| 1. Church | Eph. 1:22. |
| 2. His Body | Eph 1:23 |
| 3. Household of God | Eph 2:19. |
| 4. Temple of God | Eph 2:21 |
| 5. Habitation of God | Eph 2:22 |
| 6. Flock of God | Acts 20:28. |

Here God's people live in unity and oneness. Gal 3:26 (For ye are all the children of God by faith in Christ Jesus.) This is a peculiar unity. Apostle Paul uses the word "Body of Christ" to explain about the Discipline in the church, Christ is the head of the Body Col 1:18 (And he is the head of the body, the church, who is the beginning, the first form from the dead; and in all things he might have preeminence.). It pleases God that in Christ should dwell all the fullness of God. Col 1:19(For it pleased the father that in him should all fullness dwell.). 2:9(For in him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily.) and the church which is his body, the fullness of Christ that filleth all in all. Eph 1:23 (which is his body, the fullness of him that filleth all in all.). Church is the body. The body of man has members. All the members come under the control of the head. They carry out the duties systematically and the whole body is benefited and edified. Christ is the head of the body and the body should be under his subjection Eph 5:24(Therefore, as the Church is subject unto Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything).

God's desire for the church is "that he may present a Glorious church not having spot or wrinkle" (**Perfect**) what is the desire of the Apostle Paul? "Warning every man, and teaching every man in all wisdom that we may present every man Perfect in Christ Jesus". Col 1:28. First, individual perfection. Then the perfection of the church as a whole. God made all provisions for this purpose. Man cannot become perfect in himself. The God who has given salvation to man can only bring perfection in the life of each individual Himself. "And He gave some apostles, and some prophets; and some evangelists and some pastors, and teachers, for the perfecting of the saints for the work of the ministry. For the edifying of the body of Christ. Eph 4:11-12. Apostles, prophets, evangelists are the servants of God. Teachers and pastors (Shepherds) are the local elders (Acts 20:17, 28). And from Meletus he sent to Ephesus, and called the elders of the Church. 28. Take heed therefore unto yourselves, and to all the flock, over the which the Holy Ghost hath made you overseers, to feed the church of God, which he hath purchased with his own blood.) So the servants of God and the elders are supposed to work together. They all together Shepherds. They should work together "For the perfecting of the saints and for the work of the Ministry". This is God's desire. But in these days we find servants of God and the elders differ from each other and spoil the work. God has kept them

together for his work. If they work together, then they can bring perfection in the saint's life and the body will be edified.

The duty of the Shepherds.

1 Peter 5:1-3 "The elders which are among you I exhort. Who am also an elder and a witness of the suffering of Christ, and also a partaker of the Glory that shall be revealed. Feed the flock of God which is among you... but being ensamples to the flock" Acts 20-28. They must do their duty faithfully. Then they will get the reward. 1 Peter 5:4 "And when the chief Shepherd shall appear, ye shall receive a crown of glory that fadeth not away".

1. The duty of the Flock/Saints.

"Remember them which have the rule over you... end of their conversation." Heb 13:7.

"Obey them that have the rule over you and submit yourselves for they watch for your souls as they that must give account, that they may do it with joy and not with grief, for that is unprofitable for you. " Heb. 13:7, 1 Thess 5:12, 13.

2. Live in Unity: Eph 4:1-3.

- a) . Unity with God first. You are born again, but you should have unity with God continually. David longed for that unity Psalm 86:11 "Teach me thy way O Lord, I will walk in thy truth. Unite my heart to fear thy name." God has united us together with Lord Jesus Christ. Quickened us together with him Eph 2:1 raised us up together and made us sit together in heavenly places in Christ Jesus Eph 2:6 "We must identify the truth and experience this oneness and unity".
- b) Live in unity with one another. "I therefore, the prisoner of the Lord beseech you... to keep the unity of the spirit in the bond of peace" Eph 4:1-3. This brings edification of the Body of Christ." Behold how good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity". Psalm 133:1. There will be no differences. The church will become perfect; the sweet favor of our Lord Jesus Christ will spread abroad. In the end the Lord can present a Glorious church. This is the discipline of the Church and that is fellowship. They continued steadfastly in fellowship, we must also continue steadfastly.

3. Breaking of bread.

Luke 22:13-20 (13. And they went, and found as he had said unto them: and they made ready the Passover. 14. And when the hour was come, he sat down, and the twelve apostles with him. 15. And he said unto them, with desire I have desired to eat this Passover with you before I suffer. 16.

For I say unto you, I will not any more eat thereof, until it be fulfilled in the Kingdom of God. 17. And he took the cup, and gave thanks, and said, Take this, and divide it among yourselves. 18. For I say unto you. I will not drink of the fruit of the vine, until the Kingdom of God shall come. 19. And he took bread, and gave thanks, and brake it, and gave unto them, saying, this is my body which is given for you; this do in remembrance of me. 20. Likewise also the cup after supper, saying. This cup is the New Testament in my blood, which is shed for you.)

1 Cor 11:23-32 (23 For I have received of the Lord that which also I delivered unto you, that the Lord Jesus the same night in which he was betrayed took bread: ²⁴ And when he had given thanks, he brake it, and said, Take, eat: this is my body, which is broken for you: this do in remembrance of me. ²⁵ After the same manner also he took the cup, when he had supped, saying, this cup is the new testament in my blood: this do ye, as oft as ye drink it, in remembrance of me. ²⁶ For as often as ye eat this bread, and drink this cup, ye do shew the Lord's death till he come. ²⁷ Wherefore whosoever shall eat this bread, and drink this cup of the Lord, unworthily, shall be guilty of the body and blood of the Lord. ²⁸ But let a man examine himself, and so let him eat of that bread, and drink of that cup. ²⁹ For he that eateth and drinketh unworthily, eateth and drinketh damnation to himself, not discerning the Lord's body. ³⁰ For this cause many are weak and sickly among you, and many sleep. ³¹ For if we would judge ourselves, we should not be judged. ³² But when we are judged, we are chastened of the Lord, that we should not be condemned with the world.)

This reminds us of the first Passover feast. Exodus 12:18-11 (⁸ And they shall eat the flesh in that night, roast with fire, and unleavened bread; and with bitter herbs they shall eat it. ⁹ Eat not of it raw, nor sodden at all with water, but roast with fire; his head with his legs, and with the pertinence thereof. ¹⁰ And ye shall let nothing of it remain until the morning; and that which remaineth of it until the morning ye shall burn with fire. ¹¹ And thus shall ye eat it; with your loins girded, your shoes on your feet, and your staff in your hand; and ye shall eat it in haste: it is the Lord's Passover.

This reminds of 3 things

1. Redemption (From Slavery)
2. Deliverance (From Egypt)
3. Serving God (Exodus 8:1, 9:1).

God's people have to observe this from generation to generation. But they continued until the days of Joshua. Joshua 5:10 (And the children of Israel encamped in Gilgal, and kept the Passover on the fourteenth day of the month at even in the plains of Jericho.). Afterwards they discontinued. Passover Lamb is the shadow of the real Lamb. This feast has to be continued. Hence God spoke to King Hezekiah and he started again. 2 Chronicle 30:1-5 (¹ And Hezekiah sent to all Israel and Judah, and wrote letters also to Ephraim and Manasseh, that they should come to the house of

the LORD at Jerusalem, to keep the Passover unto the LORD God of Israel. ² For the king had taken counsel, and his princes, and all the congregation in Jerusalem, to keep the Passover in the second month. ³ For they could not keep it at that time, because the priests had not sanctified themselves sufficiently, neither had the people gathered themselves together to Jerusalem. ⁴ And the thing pleased the king and all the congregation. ⁵ So they established a decree to make proclamation throughout all Israel, from Beersheba even to Dan, that they should come to keep the Passover unto the LORD God of Israel at Jerusalem: for they had not done it of a long time in such sort as it was written.) and continued up to the days of Jesus Christ and Jesus Christ observed the last Passover. The principles and order of observing Passover is clearly mentioned in Exodus 12:1-44. The same case in respect to Breaking of Bread. This is also a memorial feast. Passover: ordinary lamb killed and eaten.

Breaking of Bread: Heavenly Lamb sacrificed. 1 Cor 5:7 (Purge out therefore the old leaven, that ye may be a new lump, as ye are unleavened. For even Christ our Passover is sacrificed for us;).

This lamb must be eaten. Jesus Christ said in John 6:51-56⁽⁵¹ I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world.⁵² The Jews therefore strove among themselves, saying, How can this man give us his flesh to eat? ⁵³ Then Jesus said unto them, Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except ye eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink his blood, ye have no life in you. ⁵⁴ Whoso eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, hath eternal life; and I will raise him up at the last day. ⁵⁵ For my flesh is meat indeed, and my blood is drink indeed. ⁵⁶ He that eateth my flesh, and drinketh my blood, dwelleth in me, and I in him.)

- Ordinary Bread : For sustenance of Physical Body.
- Living bread : For sustenance of the Spiritual body.
- He said "Do this in remembrance of me" 1 Corin 11:24-25.

Whenever we take part, we declare 3 things

1. I am redeemed. Eph 1:7, Col 1:14.
2. I am at liberty. Eph 1:13, 2Cor 2:17, Gal 5:1.
3. I serve the Lord. 1 Cor 11:26.

This is not a tradition but a testimony.

- Who should eat :
 - Only those who are born again. No stranger (Unbeliever) should eat it.
- How to eat:
 - Eat with unleavened bread. 1 Cor 5:8.
 - Two kinds of leaven :
 - Leaven of Pharisees: Luke 12:1.
 - Hypocrisy – God does not like Hypocrisy, (Matt 23:13,15 (¹³ But woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye shut up the kingdom of heaven against men: for ye neither go in yourselves, neither suffer ye them that are

entering to go in. ¹⁵ Woe unto you, scribes and Pharisees, hypocrites! for ye compass sea and land to make one proselyte, and when he is made, ye make him twofold more the child of hell than yourselves.

- Leaven of Sadducees: Do not believe in resurrection. Acts 23:8.

The testimony that we give when we take part in the Lord's Table is that:

1. I am redeemed. My life is clean.
2. I am ready for rapture.

That is why we should examine and set right our lives before God and man before we take part. 1 Cor 11:28, 29. This is testimony declaring that we are ready for the Lords coming. I am perfect. Here we declare that we are perfect.

How to distribute: Luke 22:17.

In all other denomination the priest or the pastor distributes, but it is not according to the Word of God. The Lord said divide it among yourselves, all are equal before me.

Hence what ever we do according to the word of God when we take part we declare our hope. John 14:2 (in my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I do to prepare a place for you.) 1 John 3:2(Beloved, now are we the sons of God, and it doth not yet appear what we shall be: but we know that, when he shall appear, we shall be like him; for we shall see him as he is.). They continued steadfastly. We should also continue steadfastly.

Collection/Offering

Brother.Bakht Singh asked the Lord about this, He said "Lord Bible tells us to bring offering to the Lord. I do not like to take a bag and collect from every individual in the church. But God's people want to give to the Lord. So what should I do? Then the Lord told him to read 2 Kings 12:9 "But Jehoiada the priest took a chest, and bored a hole in the lid of it, and set it beside the altar, on the right side as one cometh into the house of the LORD: and the priests that kept the door put therein all the money that was brought into the house of the LORD." Now after reading this verse Bro. Bakht singh made a chest as told in the Bible and kept it in the Church and announced to the congregation to put their collection/offering in the church. But he was very particular that only those who gave their heart to the Lord should bring their offering.

Hence whatever we do in our fellowship we do it in accordance to the Word of God.

4. Prayer: Acts 2:32, Eph 6:10-20.

Through prayer we commune with God. Once we were separated from God because of our sin. Isaiah 59:1, 2(¹ Behold, the Lord's hand is not shortened, that it cannot save; neither his ear heavy, that it cannot hear: ² But your iniquities have separated between you and your God, and your sins have hid his face from you, that he will not hear.) Through the blood of Jesus Christ we are brought nigh unto God. We have received the adoption or son-ship. Romans 8:15(For ye have not received the spirit of bondage again to fear, but ye have received the Spirit of adoption, where by we cry, Abba, Father.). Now we can come to him and call him Abba Father We should come to God with faith. Heb 11:1 (Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen.) Without faith we cannot please God. Heb 11:6 (⁶ But without faith it is impossible to please him: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and that he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.) It is God's desire that we should depend upon him for everything.

Why should we pray?

1. God has commanded us that we should pray.

- a. Isaiah 55:6: Seek ye the Lord while he may be found, call ye upon him while he is near.
- b. Jeremiah 33:3: Call unto me, and I will answer thee, and show thee great and mighty things, which thou knowest not.
- c. Matthew 7:7: Ask and it shall be given you; seek, ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you.

2. When we pray, God answers and we are encouraged.

- a. **David's experience is "Depart** from me, all ye workers of iniquity; for the Lord hath heard the voice of my weeping. The Lord hath heard my supplication: the Lord will receive my prayer" Psalm 6:8.
- b. **Isaiah 65:24:** And it shall come to pass, that before they call, I will answer; and while they are yet speaking, I will hear.

How to offer prayer: David's life.

1. Without sin:

- a. Psalm 66:18 "If I regard iniquity in my heart, the Lord will not hear me".
- b. **Confession:** Look upon mine affliction and my pain: and forgive all my sins. "I acknowledge my sin unto thee... I will confess my transgression unto the Lord". Psalm 25:18, Psalm 32:5.
- c. Assurance of Forgiveness: "Thou forgavest the iniquity of my sin". Psalm 32:5. "He forgiveth all thine iniquity". Psalm 103:3.

2. Call upon Him in Truth:

"The Lord is nigh unto all them that call upon him, to all that call upon him in truth." Psalm 145: 18.

3. Call upon Him doing the will of God:

"Now we know that God heareth not sinners: but if any man be a worshipper of God, and doeth his will, him he heareth" John 9:31.

4. In the name of Lord Jesus Christ

"For through him (Jesus Christ) we both have access by one spirit unto the Father" Eph 2:18.

Jesus said " Verily, verily I say unto you, whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you." John 16:23.

Prayer: 3 kinds:

1. Public prayer : The Bible gives many examples of praying publicly

- a. Joshua prayed publicly.** ⁶ And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads. ⁷ And Joshua said, Alas, O LORD God, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? Would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan! ⁸ O LORD, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies! ⁹ For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name?.
- b. David prayed publicly.** O Lord God of Abraham, Isaac, and of Israel, our fathers, keep this forever in the imagination of the thoughts of the hearts of thy people and prepare their heart unto thee." 1 Chron 29:18.
- c. Early Churches prayed publicly.** ²⁴ And when they heard that, they lifted up their voice to God with one accord, and said, Lord, thou art God, which hast made heaven, and earth, and the sea, and all that in them is: Acts 4:24.
- d. Paul and Silas prayed:** ²⁵ And at midnight Paul and Silas prayed, and sang praises unto God: and the prisoners heard them. Acts 16:25.

2. Family prayers:

- a. Bible teaches us that we should have family prayer.** ⁶ And these words, which I command thee this day, shall be in thine heart: ⁷ And thou shalt teach them diligently unto thy children, and shalt talk of them when thou sittest in thine house, and when thou walkest by the way, and when thou liest down, and when thou risest up. Deuteronomy 6:6-7.
- b. Prophet Isaiah exercised this and hence he could give a testimony.** ¹⁸ Behold, I and the children whom the LORD hath given

me are for signs and for wonders in Israel from the LORD of hosts, which dwelleth in mount Zion.

3. Private prayer:

- a. **Abraham prayed privately alone with God.** ²² And the men turned their faces from thence, and went toward Sodom: but Abraham stood yet before the LORD. ²³ And Abraham drew near, and said, Wilt thou also destroy the righteous with the wicked? Genesis 18:22-23.
- b. **Jeremiah prayed alone to God:** ¹⁶ Now when I had delivered the evidence of the purchase unto Baruch the son of Neriah, I prayed unto the LORD, saying, Jeremiah 32: 16.
- c. **Jesus Christ also prayed alone to God:** ¹² And it came to pass in those days, that he went out into a mountain to pray, and continued all night in prayer to God.
⁴¹ And he was withdrawn from them about a stone's cast, and kneeled down, and prayed," Luke 22:41.

Through Prayer we declare that, we depend upon God for all things. So whatever we do in the church, either singing, or worshiping, or Breaking of Bread, or Prayer, we follow the principles given in the Word of God.

First Century church continued abiding fully to these principles. Their way of life is our example. We should continue steadfastly in the same principles.

Conclusion:

Today many of our Assemblies are not following the vision that was shown to our dear Bro. Bakht Singh. The main reason is that we do not want to spend much time in the church; we are pre-occupied with the materialism of this world. Even old timers have reconciled to the idea that we should have only two messages and not three. We have started compromising with the world, and hence we find that many of our Assemblies are splitting, and there is a lot of infighting.

We stand accountable to all that we do here; God will judge us for being casual. May God enable each one of us, (especially those in authority in the Assembly,) to reconsider our ways, and do only that which pleases God and not man.

May God Bless You.